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could be adapted with no constitutional change to the Australian ballot system as found in most of our states. The objections of the practical politicians to the plan are met in a candid spirit, and their validity, so far as they are valid, fully recognized; but the additional advantages of the system that he advocates are, of course, also suggested. The most ardent advocate of the present party system, could have little to say against the spirit with which the subject is treated in these chapters.

The author believes that it would be wise for this system to be applied first in the election of boards of aldermen of city governments, and like local bodies, and then, after it had shown its excellence, it might gradually be extended to our states, and possibly, with certain modifications, to our national government. Special students of the subject will be grateful for the large amount of carefully prepared statistical material, and for a detailed explanation of some of the more intricate systems that are not generally known, and regarding which it is somewhat difficult to get material.

It is to be hoped that the work will have an extensive sale, and will thus spread the knowledge of the system widely among our voters. A system that has proved so successful, especially in Switzerland, and that would apparently exercise so strong an influence toward reforming our political abuses, ought to be understood by our more thoughtful citizens, whether they would be ready to vote for its immediate adoption in our city governments or not.

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The Development of Parliament During the Nineteenth Century.

By G. LOWNDES DICKINSON, M. A., Fellow of Kings College, Cambridge, Pp. 183. London. Longmans, Green & Co., 1895.

During the last twelve months there has appeared a series of publications on modern political development, which stands in curious contrast with earlier publications on the same subject. By far the greater number of these have taken the advance of democracy during the nineteenth century for their text. The more recent publications are characterized by a tone of pessimism which was foreign to the political thought of the '60's and '70's. As in most of the writings on politics, England and English political development have been made the main subjects of discussion. In the volume under review, Mr. Dickinson gives a succinct account of the successive steps in the extension of political privileges from the Reform Act of 1832 to the present time. The tendency of political parties to bid for the support of different elements of the population, and the extension of the

suffrage, which is the inevitable result, are admirably described by the author. A clear political insight into the forces, both economic and social, which have been at work in determining this development, gives to Mr. Dickinson's discussion of the subject more permanent value than belongs to the discussions of many better known writers. He seems to grasp the idea that democracy, in spite of Sir Henry Maine's authority, means something more than a mere form of government, and must be judged by standards other than purely political.

In the development of the democratic spirit and of democratic ideals we have mirrored a great social process as irresistible as the development of the other subjective characteristics in national life. In losing sight of this fact many of the modern political writers have been led into an opportunist, and narrowly critical attitude toward this problem.

Instead of placing the emphasis upon the new subjective qualities, which advancing democracy demands, they have endeavored to place themselves in opposition to manifest tendencies by an effort to show the utter futility of democratic principles, and the hopeless absurdity of government by the masses. Into this snare the author has not allowed himself to fall, although his views and instincts are manifestly conservative.

In the last two chapters he sums up in the space of some fifty pages the present political situation in England. He endeavors to show that a form of socialism, until recently foreign to English political life, is making itself felt, namely, the more revolutionary type of Marxist socialism. The acceptance of socialistic platforms by a number of labor unions and labor congresses impresses the author far beyond its real significance. He sees in it a near future when the majority of the representatives in the House of Commons will represent this tendency, which is rapidly becoming the political creed of the working classes.

In one respect Mr. Dickinson's views are in close harmony with those advanced by other recent writers, such as Mr. Lecky. The change in the constitution and the position of the House of Commons which has taken place since the Reform Act of 1867 is regarded as an indication of political decline. It is curious to note that the close relation existing between representatives and constituencies which we are accustomed to regard as one of the main elements of strength in the English form of government is viewed by the author as a source of political weakness and a cause of increasing legislative inefficiency. It involves the loss of independence of judgment on the part of the House of Commons. The fact that the House of Commons merely registers the opinions dictated by the country at large, that

all the important acts are decided in the political discussions of the people, and that the debates in the House of Commons have been reduced to mere matters of form, have taken from the passage of measures the safeguards of careful consideration and minute parliamentary debate. In taking this stand the author does not seem to realize that this condition is one of the signs of political progress, a proof of the superior political education of the English people as compared with that of other civilized peoples. Although it involves manifest dangers incident to the increasing complexity of English institutions, to magnify these tendencies into indications of political decline is both unscientific and unhistorical. It indicates a lack of careful analysis of political conditions; a result of the failure to bring social and economic conditions in close relation with political principles. With these few criticisms of Mr. Dickinson's conclusions it may be said that his exposition of facts, and the clear perception of political methods and principles are such as to make the work of great value to the student of contemporaneous English politics.

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State Railroad Control, with a History of its Development in Iowa.

By FRANK H. DIXON, Ph. D. With an Introduction by Henry C. Adams, Ph. D. Pp. ix, 250. Price, \$1.75. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., 1896.

In Volume IX of the Library of Economics and Politics, Dr. Dixon deals with the subject of State Railroad Control. An introduction to the book is written by Professor Henry C. Adams, "to show the bearing of a detailed study upon railroad control in a particular state to the great railroad problem." Professor Adams believes that the solution of the railroad question in this country must come about either through government ownership or through railroad regulation by means of commissions, and he rejects the former method as an undesirable and impossible one. The commission system is on trial both by the states and by the national government. The detailed study of the history and results of a typical railway commission, such as that of the State of Iowa, has value, because it must inevitably show what are the possibilities of the commission plan of railway regulation.

Dr. Dixon divides his book into four parts, in the first of which he deals with the Railroad History of Iowa before 1878. Part II., is devoted to the discussion of the Advisory Commission, established by the State of Iowa in 1878. The author goes into the work of the Commission with much detail, and shows an intimate knowledge of